

time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (the "proposed Convention"). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an Overview of the proposed Convention.

The proposed Convention provides for reduced withholding rates on cross-border payments of dividends, interest, royalties, and other income. The proposed Convention contains a restrictive provision designed to prevent "treaty shopping," which is the inappropriate use of a tax treaty by third-country residents. The proposed Convention also provides for the exchange of information between the competent au-

thorities to facilitate the administration of each country's tax laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize to all of the staff—we have had a long, hard week—for keeping everybody around, but we have had some very important business Senator MCCONNELL and I have been working on for 3 days and we just could not leave without completing that. I know it is tough to be out here and have a quorum call and not getting things done, but when we are not out here, it does not mean we are not doing things. So I apologize to the Presiding Officer and the wonderful staff, but I appreciate your patience.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. tomorrow, January 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings

be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask consent that Senator SALAZAR be recognized to speak following leader remarks in order to give his farewell remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, Senator-appointee TED KAUFMAN will take the oath of office and become a U.S. Senator, replacing our soon-to-be Vice President, JOE BIDEN.

There will be no rollcall votes tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:32 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 16, 2009, at 10 a.m.